



August 2019 Newsletter

Monthly Conservation Notes

Hurricane Central

Our friends in Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are still recovering from hurricanes Irma and Maria, and were just caught by surprise and sideswiped by Hurricane Dorian, a cyclone everyone thought was going to remain a weak tropical storm just a day earlier. And now Hurricane Dorian churns toward Florida as a major hurricane. The lower Florida Keys and parts of the mainland are still getting back on their feet from Hurricane Irma as well, and now it looks like somewhere on the Florida peninsula is going to get hit hard on Labor Day. But where? West Indians and Floridians are used to a certain level of uncertainty, but to me, this feels more uncertain than usual. The entire state has been in the crosshairs now for days, and we really won't know what is going to happen until the storm is almost here. By then, it will be too late. Someone mentioned to me today, "Maybe I will move somewhere safe." But where would that be? The reality is that global change is upon us and we can't wish that away. We are at a crossroads as a global society, and how we respond to challenging events like hurricanes, floods, droughts, polar inversions, and other events will determine our future and the future of the world.

Will we learn and adapt, becoming stronger, and creating opportunities to restore damaged ecosystems and societies? Or will we fail to learn and suffer endless tragedy?

The thing about hurricanes is that they make clear the power of the planet and its ecological and climatic processes. Witnessing the power of a hurricane is humbling. What is up to us is how we react to this power, plan for it, adapt to it, and find an opportunity for renewal afterward.

To all our friends and supporters in Florida and beyond, stay safe, and we wish you all good luck. We will see you after the storm.

George Gann
Executive Director



The calm before the storm, August 30, 2019

This year marks The Institute for Regional Conservation's
35th anniversary!

Save The Date!

IRC's 35th Anniversary celebration in Miami-Dade County will be on Sunday, **October 27th** at historic Simpson Park in Brickell.

For more information, [click here](#).

Our celebration in Palm Beach County will be on Thursday, **November 7th** at the offices of Business Consultants of South Florida in Delray Beach.

For more information, [click here](#).

IRC Hiring Field Technicians

IRC is currently accepting applications for field technician positions for our Pine Rockland Initiative program. We will be conducting ecological restoration activities in pine rockland fragments in both Miami-Dade and Monroe counties. Work will include invasive plant treatment, hardwood reduction, pine thinning, and other restoration activities. Responsibilities include using hand tools, such as chainsaws and brush-cutters, applying herbicides, and potentially assisting in prescribed burns. Some knowledge of south Florida plants (native and non-native) is preferred but is not required. Team members must be able to work in a harsh environment and a hot, humid climate.

If you or someone you know is a fan of our work and would like to join our team, please send a copy of your CV or resume, and a letter of interest to Michelle Smith at msmith@regionalconservation.org.

IRC will be presenting at the Florida Association of Native Nurseries 2019 Native Plant Show

The Florida Association of Native Nurseries' (FANN) 7th Annual Native Plant Show is coming this November to Mounts Botanical Garden West Palm Beach.



Register now to join in on the fun, from outdoor exhibits to indoor educational workshops at Clayton Hutchinson Center. There will be native plants, CEU classes, and a variety of suppliers/services. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Our very own Chief Conservation Strategist, George Gann (left), will be teaching two workshops during this event (one each day). On November 7th, from 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm, he will be presenting on *Transforming Landscapes in an Age of Rapid Change* and on November 8th, from 3:30 pm to 4:00 pm, he will be presenting on our *Natives for Your*



Neighborhood website.

Also, IRC Associate Steven Woodmansee (right) of [Pro Native Consulting](#), will be teaching a workshop on *Twenty Tricky Native Plants: An ID Workshop* on November 7th, from 2:15 pm - 3:15 pm.

DONATE



A HUGE thank you to Beach Property Owners' Association of Delray Beach for their generous donation towards our Restoring the Gold Coast Kick-Off event.

Thank you to our recent donors for supporting IRC's programs.
Philip Besler, Jabari Lee, Shannon Schnuerer, Federico Torres, & Cesar Gonzalez.



Recent IRC Events

Educational Sign Installed at Ned Glenn Nature Preserve

Thanks to the collaboration of IRC, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Miami-Dade County's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, and Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, the critically endangered pine rockland habitat at Ned Glenn Nature Preserve is being restored. IRC has worked at Ned Glenn throughout 2018 and 2019 conducting invasive species removal and hardwood reduction treatments to increase native biodiversity and conserve threatened and endangered species found within the pineland.



We recently installed an educational sign with the help of IRC field biologist Michelle Smith, EEL site manager Kirk Linaje, and Miami-Dade County's Natural Areas Management program to inform visitors about the restoration activities at Ned Glenn.

IRC continues work at Lake Ida Parcel

On Saturday, August 17th, we held a small volunteer event to continue the up-keep at our restoration project at the Lake Ida parcel in Delray Beach. We hand-pulled Rose natalgrass (*Melinis repens*), Lima (*Sida cordifolia*), and Caesarweed (*Urena lobata*). As always, thanks to all who have helped with this project! Stay tuned for a larger event at Lake Ida later this fall, sponsored by [Erin Deady Law](#).



We are in need of more sponsorships to hold much-needed workdays at Lake Ida. Please consider donating to The Institute for Regional Conservation's Green Delray Program, and help connect people with nature!

Upcoming IRC Events

- **Restoring the Gold Coast Kick-Off Event, September 7th:** 9:00am - 12:00pm. Join IRC, [the City of Delray Beach](#), [Sandoway Discovery Center](#), and [Beach Property Owners' Association](#) for a Restoring the Gold Coast Kick-off event at the Municipal Beach in Delray Beach. We will meet at the gazebo located across from Nassau Street. We will have a brief ceremony and ribbon cutting at 9:00 am, and then work in the dunes to the east of the gazebo. Participants will learn about the value of restoring coastal biodiversity while planting a variety of native coastal plants, removing invasive plants, and picking up trash. We will provide all tools, gloves, and materials necessary as well as light refreshments. We ask that volunteers wear closed-toed shoes, sunscreen, and a hat. All participants will receive a free t-shirt at check-in! Check out our webpage to learn more about our [RGC Program!](#)
- **International Coastal Cleanup, September 21st:** 9:00am - 12:00pm. Join IRC at Atlantic Dunes Park in Delray Beach for the International Coastal Cleanup. We will have a check-in table set up at the pavilion located along the boardwalk. We will be working to enhance this beautiful park by removing damaging invasive plants, planting a variety of native coastal plants and picking up trash along the beach. This event is in partnership with [Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful](#) and [the City of Delray Beach](#). We will provide all

tools, gloves, and materials necessary as well as light refreshments. We ask that volunteers wear closed-toed shoes, sunscreen, and a hat. All participants will receive a free t-shirt at check-in!



We are a nonprofit conservation organization exempt from taxes under the
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The Institute for Regional Conservation | [Website](#)

